

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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R 221211Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8463

AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO USUN NEW YORK 392

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO, PGOV, SP

SUBJ: POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL

REF: LISBON 1022

1. SPANISH PRESS HAS CLOSELY FOLLOWED DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL SINCE PUBLICATION IN LATE FEBRUARY OF GENERAL SPINOLA'S BOOK. THREE SPANISH NEWSPAPERS "INFORMACIONES" (INDEPENDENT), "LA VANGUARDIA" OF BARCELONA (INDEPENDENT), AND "ARRIVA" (MOVEMENT), HAVE RECENTLY SENT CORRESPONDENTS TO LISBON TO TALK WITH SPINOLA. EMBASSY TRANSMITTING HEREWITH SALIENT POINTS OF THESE BRIEF INTERVIEWS BECAUSE OF THEIR TIMELINESS.

2. SPINOLA TOLD SPECIAL ENVOY OF "INFORMACIONES" MARCH 17 THAT HE COULD NOT PASS JUDGEMENT ON EFFECTS OF HIS BOOK INASMUCH AS HE COULD NOT PRETEND TO BE BEST CRITIC SINCE THIS WAS JOB OF OTHERS. ACCORDING TO CORRESPONDENT, SPINOLA HAD SENT PERSONALLY DEDICATED COPY TO CAETANO 8 DAYS BEFORE ITS PUBLIC SALE. CORRESPONDENT MAINTAINED THAT BOOK'S BASIC THEME OF CONFEDERATION BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND ITS AFRICAN COLONIES HAD ONCE BEEN DEFENDED BY CAETANO HIMSELF WHEN HE WAS UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR BUT WHICH HE HAD SINCE REPUDIATED BECAUSE OF ITS INFEASIBILITY.

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3. CORRESPONDENT OF "INFORMACIONES" REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN TWO MILITARY DEATHS, AND 15 WOUNDED IN ABORTIVE UPRISING OF INFANTRY AT CALDAS DA RAIHNAS MARCH 16, BUT THAT PORTUGUESE PRESS HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO REPORT THIS FACT. IN DISCUSSING ATTITUDES OF PORTUGAL'S TRADITIONAL ALLIES TOWARDS INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS, CORRESPONDENT REPORTED THAT US HAD GIVEN PERMISSION MARCH 17 TO REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA-BISSAU TO OPEN OFFICE IN NEW YORK IN ORDER TO TAKE PART AS OBSERVER IN UN DEBATES.

4. ACCORDING TO "INFORMACIONES" MARCH 19, OVER 1,000 PORTUGUESE JUNIOR OFFICERS HAVE ALREADY SIGNED A STATEMENT DRAFTED EARLIER IN MONTH WHICH WOULD BE SENT TO PRESIDENT AMERICO THOMAZ DEMANDING A DEMOCRATIZATION OF PORTUGUESE INSTITUTIONS AS A PREREQUISITE FOR THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS POSED BY WAR IN AFRICA. "INFORMACIONES" REPORTED THAT STATEMENT WAS STILL BEING CIRCULATED TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES.

5. "LA VANGUARDIA" PUBLISHED MARCH 20 INTERVIEW HELD PREVIOUS DAY WITH GENERAL SPINOLA IN FRONT OF HIS HOUSE IN LISBON. CORRESPONDENT WHO HAD SPENT HOURS WAITING FOR GENERAL SAID HE HAD NOTED MANY PTT OFFICIALS COMING AND GOING WITH TELEGRAMS, BUT HAD NOT SEEN ANY POLICE OR SOLDIERS GUARDING HOUSE. GENERAL SAID HE HAD STARTED WRITING HIS BOOK TWO AND A HALF YEARS AGO AND THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ABORTIVE UPRISING BY OFFICERS AND CADETS AT CALDAS DA RAIHNAS. TOLD THAT HIS BOOK WOULD BE TRANSLATED IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH HE INSTRUCTED CORRESPONDENT TO CONTACT HIS BROTHER ABOUT ANY INTEREST IN HAVING BOOK PUBLISHED IN SPANISH. ASKED WHETHER ONE SHOULD BELIEVE GOP STATEMENT ABOUT NUMBER OF OFFICERS OR CADETS ARRESTED FOR UPRISING, SPINOLA REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO REASON TO DISBELIEVE OFFICIAL INFORMATION.

6. "LA VANGUARDIA" CORRESPONDENT REPORTED THAT GENERAL RAMARO, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MILITARY ACADEMY IN LISBON, HAD BEEN FORCED TO RESIGN, BUT THIS COULD NOT BE CONFIRMED BY GOVERNMENT SOURCES. EMBOFF WAS TOLD MAR 15 BY SR. NOVAIS, "LE MONDE" CORRESPONDENT FOR SPAIN/PORTUGAL THAT HE HAD BEEN ADVISED BY PORTUGUESE EMBASSY NOT TO GO TO PORTUGAL AT THIS TIME AS REQUESTED BY HIS PARIS OFFICE. NOVAIS SAID JUNIOR OFFICERS IN PORTUGUESE ARMY WERE VENTING LONG-STANDING GRIEVANCES AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON GOP, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ESPECIALLY INASMUCH AS THEY FELT THEY NOW HAD A CHAMPION IN GENERAL SPINOLA.

7. SPANISH EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS KEPT CLOSE TO ANALYSIS OF AVAILABLE FACTS, WITH IMPLICATION THAT RETENTION OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES WAS NO LONGER FEASIBLE FOR PORTUGAL. INTERNAL FEEDBACK OF BURDEN FOR OVERSEAS WAS INTERPRETED AS DECISIVE TURNING POINT WHICH COULD PROFOUNDLY AFFECT PORTUGAL'S FUTURE.

8. COMMENT: ROLE OF GENERAL SPINOLA AND YOUNGER MILITARY OFFICERS IN PORTUGAL'S DEVELOPING INTERNAL SITUATION IS UNDOUBTEDLY BEING CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY SPANISH MILITARY AND OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS HERE. ALTHOUGH SPANISH MILITARY HAVE NOT BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN POLITICS IN RECENT YEARS EXAMPLE OF PORTUGUESE COLLEAGUES, PARTICULARLY IF MORE DEMOCRATIC REGIME IS SOUGHT THERE, COULD POSSIBLY TEMPT SOME SEGMENTS OF SPANISH MILITARY TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN SPAIN'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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